

RICHARD G. LUGAR
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 26, 2009

Dear Friends:

It is with great pride that I congratulate the students, teachers, and parents gathered for the 2009 Super Mileage Challenge. It is fitting that this competition is being held at Indianapolis, where so many historic milestones in the evolution of the automobile have occurred. It is a legacy in which you now share.

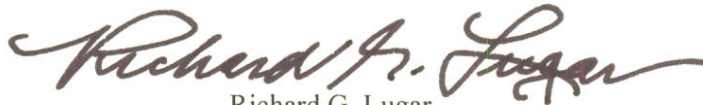
For 14 years, the Indiana Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Alliance, along with its dedicated partners has challenged Hoosier high school students in this innovative engineering showcase. It is a truly daunting task to design, engineer, build, and operate a prototype vehicle, let alone a vehicle with superior fuel efficiency as its goal. In meeting this challenge, you combine the theoretical aspects of mathematics and science with the practicality of design and fabrication. These skills are part of a more prosperous future for Indiana and for the country.

As innovators in this competition, you are benefitting from the spirit of teamwork, the collective knowledge of your peers, the encouragement of your teachers and parents, and a personal resolve to reach new heights. You are sharpening your intellect, your poise and public speaking abilities, and your personal confidence. You are witnessing that many of our goals are achieved only through tenacious effort that may take weeks, months, even years of dedicated effort. These are valuable lessons for us all.

The Super Mileage Challenge also carries a tremendous national significance. Building highly fuel efficient vehicles is a vital part of our national effort to build a more secure America – an America less reliant on foreign sources of oil. United States national security and economic prosperity demand that we move toward a sustainable energy future. Global oil reserves are concentrated in tumultuous regions and in several nations hostile to the United States. The global trend of foreign governments asserting greater control over oil reserves allows unfriendly regimes to use their oil exports as leverage against the United States and our allies. Simply put, improved fuel efficiency is a critical component of our national well-being. Your vehicles stand as a physical demonstration that we can meet our goals, and as a powerful testimony to your creative ingenuity and engineering knowledge.

I look forward to learning the good news of your achievements. Congratulations to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard G. Lugar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "R" and "L".

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator